

**Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board**

1422 HOWE AVENUE, SUITE 3, SACRAMENTO, CA 95825  
TELEPHONE: (916) 263-2666/ FAX: (916) 263-2668  
www.slpab.ca.gov



**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY BOARD  
Providence Speech & Hearing Center  
1301 Providence Avenue  
Orange CA 92868-3892  
October 23, 2003  
AUDIOLOGY PRACTICE  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Committee Members Present**

Rebecca Bingea, M.A., Chairperson  
Alison Grimes, AuD.  
Marsha Raggio, Ph.D.

**Board Members Present**

Jim Till, Ph.D.  
Sherry Washington, M.A.  
Bruce Gerratt, Ph.D.

**Guests Present**

Joseph Trunk, Audiologist

**Board Members Absent**

Paul Donald, M.D.  
Vivian Shannon, M.A.

**Staff Present**

Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer  
George Ritter, Staff Counsel  
Candace Raney, Staff Analyst  
Lori Pinson, Staff Analyst

**I. Call To Order**

Chairperson Bingea called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

**II. Introductions**

Those present introduced themselves.

**III. Review of Reference Materials Developed to Assist with  
Evaluating Courses for Continuing Professional Development Approval**

Ms. Del Mugnaio distributed an updated document prepared by Ms. Bingea with input from Ms. Grimes and Ms. Raggio that listed subject areas applicable to the practice of audiology. She explained that the purpose of the document was to provide a reference tool for staff to use when reviewing applications continuing professional development course work.

A discussion ensued and the committee made modifications to the document presented.

Mr. Ritter cautioned the Committee to treat this document as a general guideline in the assistance of a case-by-case review.

M/S/C: Grimes/Raggio

The Committee voted to recommend to the full board to accept the proposed CPD reference materials as amended.

#### **IV. Review Legislative & Regulatory Proposal to Amend the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program Components and Review Standards for the Practice of Audiology**

Ms. Del Mugnaio explained that this matter was discussed in a previous Audiology Practice Committee meeting and is now being presented in the form of a discussion paper with proposed regulatory language to amend the existing CPD requirements for audiologists.

The Committee discussed minor amendments to the proposed language.

M/S/C: Grimes/Raggio

The Committee voted to recommend to the full board to adopt the proposed regulatory language as amended which would provide that no more than 50% of the continuing professional development hours required of a licensed audiologist shall be obtained from courses sponsored by hearing aid manufacturers or hearing aid dispensers.

#### **V. Legislation**

##### **A. AB 525 – Hearing Aid Dispensing**

Ms. Del Mugnaio explained that AB 525 was passed and was approved by the Governor on July 14, 2003 and has been filed with the Secretary of State and will take effect January 1, 2004. The new law requires audiologists dispensing hearing aids to individuals 16 years of age and younger to hold state licensure as opposed to the existing provision which required audiologists hold the certificate of clinical competence in audiology issued by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

##### **B. SB 174 – Hearing Aid Coverage**

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that SB 174 would require that healthcare service plans provide coverage up to \$1000 to all enrollees and subscribers under 18 years of age. SB 174 was deferred over to the UC Study Commission. At this point the study is still pending. Ms. Del Mugnaio explained that she will continue to follow the progress of the bill.

### **C. SB 648 – Unbundling**

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that SB 648, if passed, will allow a hearing aid dispenser to retain a nominal fee upon the return of a hearing device during the warranty period. This bill is a two-year bill and is scheduled for policy hearing in January 2004. Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that she will continue to track this bill and provide an update at the next Board meeting.

### **D. AB 747 – Medi-Cal Rates and Hearing Aids**

Ms. Del Mugnaio explained that AB 747 will provide the Department of Health Services the authority to develop a list of durable medical equipment that will be reimbursable according to established maximum allowable costs. This bill passed and was signed by the Governor on October 2, 2003 and was filed with the Secretary of State. It will become effective January 1, 2004.

## **VI. Sunset Review Report Topics for the Practice of Audiology**

Ms. Del Mugnaio explained that this item was placed on the agenda to allow the Committee to discuss any issues relative to audiology that need to be added, changed, deleted, etc. from the document as it currently exists.

Ms. Raggio provided the Committee and those Board members present with information regarding items and issues contained in the report that need more input.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that she will provide guidance regarding issues to be contained in the report in addition to administrative edits.

## **VII. Report on Status of Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Proposed Rule for Audiologists Professional Standards**

Ms. Del Mugnaio explained that there is a proposed change to the Federal Rule to define the term “authorized provider” for consistency between Medicaid and Medicare. The proposed rule change was published in April 2003 and the comment period ended on June 2, 2003. Ms. Del Mugnaio contacted the Department of Health and Human Services for additional information. The analyst she spoke to explained that the Department is in the process of reviewing all of the comments submitted and is currently developing a final statement of reasons. She further stated that the final Rule is not scheduled to be published until April 2004.

Ms. Bingea adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

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Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer